

stroke of a pen, every anti-fossil fuel policy he has put in place during the past year.

If the President wants to lower gas prices at the pump and protect the environment, he is the one person who can do it, who can unleash American energy dominance. The world is going to meet its energy needs with oil and gas one way or the other. It is just a question of from where it comes. We can do it better and cleaner than anyone else, so why not do it here and serve the call of freedom.

#### HONORING DEBORAH JOHNSON

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deborah Johnson, who recently received the Paulson-Whitmore State Executive Award from the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board.

Deborah received the award for relentless advocacy on behalf of pork producers in North Carolina and across the country. As one of many who count her as a friend, I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Deborah grew up on her family's multi-generation farm in Johnston County. It is no exaggeration to say she has been involved in agriculture her entire lifetime, including as CEO of the North Carolina Pork Council.

In addition to serving in that post for 11 years, Deborah has been an influential leader in the North Carolina agriculture industry throughout her career. Additionally, she has also been involved in several organizations that contribute to the betterment of southeastern North Carolina's rural communities, many of which are the backbone of our State and Nation's pork industry.

Words cannot properly express all that Deborah Johnson has accomplished, but suffice it to say she is one of the most influential women in agriculture. She cares deeply about the State of North Carolina, about producing the world's best food and fiber, and about protecting the livelihoods of the many farm families who feed and clothe us all. Her dedication and leadership are unmatched, and I congratulate her on receiving this well-deserved award.

#### INFLATION HURTS ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, inflation hit 7.9 percent in February. Inflation hurts all Americans, especially seniors and those living on a fixed income.

During each of my recent townhall meetings and surveys, Madam Speaker, my constituents have consistently pleaded for the pain to stop. Unfortunately, inflation has gone up every month of Joe Biden's Presidency.

Americans are smart. They know this is not a fluke or the result of the

tragedy that is occurring in Ukraine. It is a direct consequence of liberal policies and fueled by reckless government spending. My constituents have said they simply can't afford to keep paying more for everything, which is one of the main reasons I was compelled to vote "no" on last week's \$1.5 trillion spending package. While there were individual provisions I supported, I am worried that more massive government spending will only worsen their plight. I can't, in good conscience, contribute to their pain.

#### CELEBRATING DENNIS KAPPAS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dionysios, otherwise known as Dennis, Kappas, an outstanding member of the Tarpon Springs community.

Dennis was born in Zakynthos, Greece, a beautiful island, but migrated to the United States after a devastating earthquake destroyed his island.

Dennis and his family landed in Detroit, where he was a hardworking new immigrant. He worked diligently at restaurants by day and learned English by night.

Through years of blood, sweat, and tears, as is common with the immigrant story, Dennis and his brother saved enough money to buy their own restaurant, living the American Dream.

In 1990, Dennis moved to Tarpon Springs, Florida, where he settled with his family and owned and operated Plaka restaurant, the best gyros and souvlaki on the Sponge Docks.

In addition to running Plaka and many other business ventures, Dennis has been a generous philanthropist and has made significant contributions to the centerpiece of Tarpon Springs, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He is donating the contents of his home chapel, including beautiful and one-of-a-kind icons, to the new church annex, which contains the newly opened and appropriately named St. Dionysios Chapel.

I am proud to call him a friend and thank him for all his meaningful contributions to our wonderful community.

Axios. He is worthy, Madam Speaker.

□ 1230

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF VINCENT M. AUGUSTINI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate Vincent Augustini, who lost his life due to complications from neurofibromatosis on January 27, 2022.

Vince, as his friends and family called him, was born in Johnson City, New York, on September 7, 1979. He was the seventh child of his mother, Dolores, and father, Louis.

Vince was a quintessential upstate New Yorker. He loved New York and

especially the southern tier, where he spent his entire life in his cherished hometown of Johnson City, New York.

Vincent enjoyed all things New York, from our terrific sports teams to our delicious and unique regional food choices. He loved rooting for the New York Yankees and the New York Giants. He savored hearty chicken spiedies, a Binghamton specialty, and enjoyed extra-crispy Buffalo chicken wings.

When he was not watching the Yankees or the Giants, Vince was also a huge fan of professional wrestling. However, few things brought him as much joy as following the New York Yankees, and God loves Yankees fans.

Decked out in Yankees gear, with a large Yankees logo displayed proudly on the back window of his van, Vince made several sacred trips from Johnson City to the Bronx to watch his beloved Bronx Bombers play.

For his 34th birthday, Vince trekked to the Bronx to watch the Yankees take on their biggest rivals, the Boston Red Sox. Before the game, Vince had the special honor of being escorted onto the field at Yankee Stadium, a high pride for him. He continued to attend every Saturday home game at Yankee Stadium until his declining health made it impossible for him to travel.

But the one thing Vince cherished most in the world was his devoted and loving family. As the youngest of seven siblings, the Augustini siblings were a source of mutual love, support, and inspiration to each other.

From family reunions to holidays and birthdays, Vince spent countless hours with his family, especially his mother, Dolores, with whom he shared a special bond.

As Vince's health inevitably declined, Dolores devoted her life to providing him with loving care. The relationship Vince and his mother shared was the epitome of unconditional love.

Even when his health began to deteriorate rapidly, Vince was more worried about his own mother than even about himself. In his final moments on Earth, and as his family tearfully expressed emotional and final good-byes, Vince mouthed the words to all of his brothers: "Please help Mom."

Vince was selfless. His courage in the face of a difficult battle to fight a lifelong and terribly debilitating disease is beyond inspiring. Most importantly, despite all the pain he endured throughout his life, Vince was unwavering in his compassion and care for all of those whom he encountered.

Vince was forever grateful for the kindness of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Vince was the 500th kid chosen from the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York. In November 1997, Vince had the amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring his brothers and father to Chicago to meet Bulls superstar, Michael Jordan, the greatest of all time.

Vincent was truly generous at heart and wanted to make sure other children got the same opportunity, which

is why he was a frequent donor to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York as well as the Neurofibromatosis Foundation.

Vince spent most of his last 2 years at the Willow Point Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. However, this did not stop him from doing what he loved: watching sports, eating spiedies and chicken wings, and, of course, loving his family and friends.

The Augostini family wishes to express their immense appreciation to the staff at Willow Point for the loving care that was provided to Vince through his final days on Earth. When the pandemic restrictions prohibited visitors, the staff at Willow Point made extraordinary efforts to ensure that Vince was treated as a family member and had constant virtual access to his own family at home.

Sadly, Vince passed away on January 27, 2022, surrounded by his loving family.

Although neurofibromatosis created many challenges for Vince, he refused to let his disability affect his spirits or his passion for life. He never let the disease define him.

Vince will always be remembered for his infectious smile, his charming sense of humor, and his zest for life.

As President Abraham Lincoln said, in the end, it is not the years in life that count; it is the life in your years. In the short 42 years of his life, Vince made every single day count.

He lived every day with kindness and gratitude. Vince's perseverance and tenaciousness were an inspiration to his family, friends, and all of those who were lucky enough to know him.

I ask today that all of my colleagues join me in observing a moment of silence to remember the incredible life of Vincent Augostini.

To the Augostini family, please know that we send our deepest condolences and prayers. May Vincent rest in peace.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McEACHIN) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious and loving God, remind us, as we pause in this moment, to honor the covenant You have established with us.

In Your great mercy, You have allowed us to enjoy a personal relationship with You, a relationship based on the promise You have made, time and again, to be our protector, our shield, our confidant, and our hope.

Though repeatedly we have not lived up to our end of that promise, where we agreed that we would be Your people, may we recommit ourselves, with renewed hearts and renewed purpose, to serve You this day.

What a remarkable privilege You have given us to know You, to follow You, and to love You. You call us forth to live in response to that privilege.

Because You have forgiven our iniquity, may we respond to those around us with compassion.

Because You no longer remember our sin, may we live lives worthy of Your grace.

In the strength of Your name, we offer our prayers this day.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

(Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the American Rescue Plan, or the ARP.

The ARP helped to provide critical assistance to individuals and small businesses during our historic COVID-19 pandemic that has driven job and wage growth in our country.

I will focus on just one little piece of this law: the provision boosting the child tax credit.

Study after study has shown the benefits of this policy: helping families meet basic needs such as food and utilities, a need that has become even greater when we talk about the rising

costs and inflation we are all experiencing.

Unfortunately, this support ended as families are grappling with higher prices for a range of basic needs.

If you really want to help families struggling with inflation, renew the successful ARP child tax credit. It is the right prescription for struggling families.

#### PUTIN'S WAR

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, war criminal Putin is betraying the young soldiers of Russia to death. 18- to 20-year-old conscripts are mercilessly sent to Ukraine on a training mission not knowing they were going to murder Ukrainian families of children, women, and men. Russian mothers and fathers are lied to by Putin that this is a "special mission."

I especially understand foreign service. My father served in the Flying Tigers with the Chinese military in Kunming, Chengdu, and Xi'an to stop aggression in World War II. As a parent, I am grateful my son Alan served in Iraq, my son Add in Iraq, my son Julian in Egypt, and my son Hunter in Afghanistan.

I know Russian families are concerned for their sons who are being sacrificed by Putin, murdering for oil, money, and power in Putin's war.

That is why I have offered bipartisan legislation to Russian military defectors for expedited refugee status to America. Defectors who turn over equipment to Ukraine will receive a payment of up to \$100,000.

God bless Ukraine. God save Ukraine. Long live President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore DEGETTE on Friday, March 11, 2022:

H.R. 2545, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes;

H.J. Res. 75, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 11, 2022:

H.R. 2471, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending